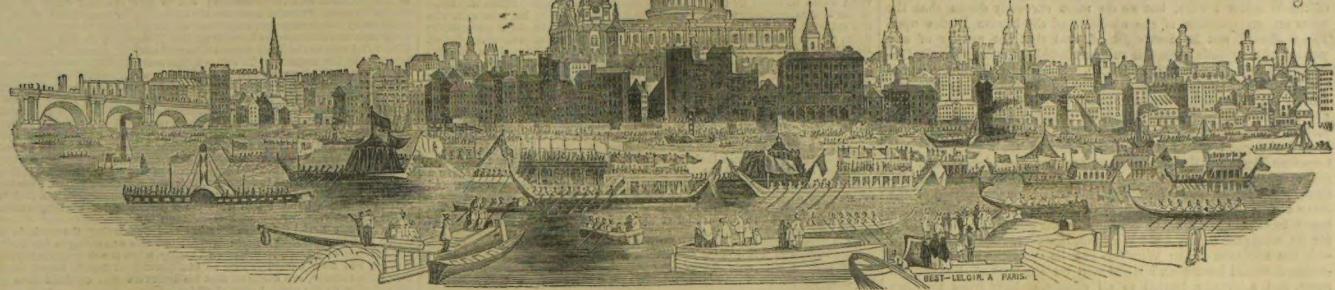


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 466.—VOL. XVIII.]

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1851.

[SIXPENCE.

THE WINDOW-TAX AND THE EXCISE.

If we are to believe the oracular announcements of the journals that either are, or pretend to be, in the confidence of the Ministry, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has resolved to abolish the Window-Tax. It is stated, also, that the financial surplus not being sufficiently large to justify the Government in relinquishing the whole sum which it yields to the Treasury, about a third of the amount is to be re-imposed in the shape of a House-Tax. Whether these announcements may be considered official or not, the opponents of the tax seem to have determined not to rely too implicitly upon their authenticity. They still believe that a necessity exists for agitating against it. The walls of the metropolis are therefore covered with placards, announcing the meetings of boroughs and parishes to protest against the longer continuance of the impost, with the object, no doubt, of strengthening the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a good resolution, if he have already formed it, or of inducing him to do so if he have not. To be disengaged from a tax of any kind is always a blessing; but to get rid of one so injurious to the amenity of our streets and houses, and to the health and cheerfulness of the community, as that upon windows, is doubly agreeable. We shall greatly rejoice, therefore, if the Chancellor of the Exchequer be in the position and in the mood to grant the middle and upper classes this great boon—even should the sweetness of the cup be slightly embittered by the infusion of such a drop of gall as the imposition of a House-Tax.

But if it should turn out, upon due investigation of the national resources for the year 1851, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot afford to relinquish more than one tax—and if the Government be not prepared to commence that great work which awaits the practical reformer of our age—we mean the total revision and re-adjustment of our fiscal system—we think, obnoxious as the Window Duties are, that they might remain for another twelve-month, and allow a more urgent benefit to be accorded to us. Bad

as they are, there are other taxes quite as unpopular, and which interfere in a far greater degree with the social comfort, as well as the moral health, of the most numerous classes of the people. The Window Duties fall exclusively upon the upper and middle classes. But even the middle classes are, to a certain extent, relieved; for shops, warehouses, and other places of business, and farm buildings, no inconsiderable portion of the tenements requiring windows, are altogether exempt. The people, generally so called, are but slightly affected by the tax, inasmuch as no house containing less than eight windows is chargeable. The tax in reality lies upon the middle and upper classes; and it is for this reason—bad as the tax is, and in every way to be condemned—that we think the Government should follow in the steps of the great reformer and statesman, now unhappily no longer amongst us, and free industry in the first place. The abolition of the excise duties upon paper, and after paper, upon soap, seems to us to have a stronger and a prior claim upon the attention of a wise and far-seeing Government. If, by a bold project of financial reform, the Russell Administration should be enabled to dispense with the Window Taxes and the Excise Duties upon Paper and Soap, all at one time, and by one beneficent stroke of the pen, the country would no doubt consent to some more equitable tax to meet any temporary deficiency that might be created, even if it went to the extent of a House-Tax calculated to bring in as large a sum as the abolished Window Duties. But, if the Government cannot or will not undertake such a task, and will only do one thing at a time, we think that, in strict justice, as well as in sound policy, the Paper and Soap Duties should have the preference. Not only would the middle and upper classes be sensibly benefitted by the repeal of those taxes and by the cheapness of two highly necessary, and, indeed, indispensable articles; but the great bulk of the people would derive from their repeal a benefit which would in nowise accrue to them from the repeal of the Window-Tax. In these times of change and perplexity, when revolution

stalks abroad, and social anarchy menaces the uninstructed populations of Europe; in these times, when Popery and Protestantism have entered the lists, to do battle for the mastery of Christendom, it is unwise for such a Government as that of Great Britain to perpetuate the ignorance of the masses by keeping up impediments to their instruction. Order and justice, and civil and religious liberty have no greater supporters and friends than the printing-press; and if paper be taxed to such an extent as to place healthy literature out of the reach of the young and rising manhood of our day, the printing-press cannot accomplish the work that might be expected of it. The class whom it would most benefit, and who most urgently need its teachings, are, by reason of this fiscal oppression, either shut out altogether from the blessings of literature, or are fed with moral garbage, to their own degradation, and to the imminent hazard, in a future time, of all the institutions of the State. On this ground alone, and quite independently of the fact that the repeal of the duty would give employment to at least a quarter of a million of persons, in addition to those now engaged in the manufacture—this question should recommend itself to the earnest attention of our statesmen of all parties. If the middle and upper classes desire to have cheap and good literature for themselves; if they desire to lessen the burden of poor-rates and prison-rates, and to see a well-employed and moral population growing up around them; if the friends of Protestantism desire to combat Romanism by the most effectual of all weapons—knowledge, and the dissemination of free opinion—they will unite to urge upon the Government the necessity and duty of untaxing that commodity, without a large and cheap supply of which the education and enlightenment of the people is impossible. The question cannot be too strongly urged, or too constantly kept before the public; and it is because we see too much of a tendency to be contented with the first boon offered, and to be thankful for the repeal of the Window-Tax, unaccompanied by any other remission of a more onerous and mischievous



PROCESSION AT SAN FRANCISCO, IN CELEBRATION OF THE ADMISSION OF CALIFORNIA INTO THE AMERICAN UNION.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

burden, that, without at all denying the policy of abolishing an impost that so injuriously affects the middle and upper classes, we would appeal to the upper and middle classes on behalf of the people. Whatever deprives the working classes of a legitimate field for the exercise of their honest industry—whatever tends to keep them in ignorance—combines to throw a burden on the classes above them.

We by no means desire to discourage the agitation for a repeal of the Window Duties; but we do most earnestly desire that the more serious question of the abolition of the Excise Duties upon Paper should not be lost sight of, and that the apathy of any portion of the public upon this subject should not encourage the Government to do less than it might do. All Excise Duties are necessarily more injurious and vexatious in their operation than any other form of taxation, direct or indirect. The Excise restrictions upon glass, now happily removed, by the wise intervention of Sir Robert Peel, were a striking proof of this fact; and every one knows the good effects which have followed their removal. We therefore hope that the Government and the Legislature will find the means to free us, during the Session, of those Excise restrictions which affect such an important article as paper, and of the Soap and Window Duties along with them. If, however, this is too much to expect, we must of course take the good that is provided for us, whatever it may be. We shall, however, retain our opinion—that the abolition of the Window-Tax be the only boon intended—that it would have been a wiser step on the part of the Government, and a greater benefit to all classes, to have freed industry and knowledge from taxation. Free-Trade, and the Exhibition of Industry in a Palace built of untaxed glass, would be appropriately recorded on untaxed paper. Perhaps, after all, we have, in these observations, been fighting with a shadow, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget will be worthy of the year of 1851. At all events we shall continue to hope—till we hear an authoritative statement to the contrary—that we shall have to date from this year the period of untaxed knowledge as well as of untaxed light.

THE WINDOW-TAX.

The expectation that a considerable surplus of revenue will be in the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the close of the financial year in April, excites the active exertions of all who regard themselves as especially aggrieved by any one particular impost. Accordingly, we find the claimants for the repeal of the onerous Window Duty on the alert in a quarter where the agitation of grievance is always nursed with peculiar goodwill—the borough of Marylebone.

In addition to the meetings already held in that and other districts of the metropolis, there were two convened this week—one on Monday, and the other on Wednesday—with the view of effecting the unconditional and total repeal of this fiscal burden, without any compromise of a modified house-tax, which it is understood to be the intention of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to propose in the next budget.

The first meeting was held in the yard attached to Marylebone workhouse, and was attended by deputations from Islington, St. Anne's, and others of the metropolitan parishes, and from the neighbouring districts; many of the members wearing blue scarves, on which were inscribed the large white letters, "Unconditional Repeal." "No surrender!" and the cartridges which conveyed the deputations were placed with bills bearing similar mottoes.

There were on the platform several members of Parliament, including Sir Jas. Duke, Bart., Sir De Lucy Evans, Mr. Mowatt, Mr. W. Williams, Mr. Lushington, Mr. Buxton, &c.

Mr. Nicholls, the chairman, shortly explained the object of the meeting, and read letters of apology for non-attendance from Lord John Russell (daughter); Mr. Duncombe, M.P.; Mr. Wilcox, M.P.; Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P.; the Lord Mayor of York (Mr. Meek); Mr. Ewart, M.P.; Mr. Huia, M.P.; and other gentlemen.

Mr. French, who moved the first resolution, observed that this was a popular meeting, and almost all that might expect to be addressed by noblemen and men of rank, yet it had been determined that the question should be carried by the people—not by the Earl of Ental or Sir Benjamin Baracra (Laughter.) The resolution was as follows:—

That the Window-tax be wrong in principle, unnatural in character, partial, oppressive, and unfair in operation, most repugnant to the feelings of the community, and elate the desire of the people, this meeting pledges itself to use every means to obtain an immediate, total, and unconditional repeal of the tax, and not to accept any commutation or modification thereof, in any manner whatever.

Mr. Mitchell, of Oxford-street, in seconding the resolution, pointed out the three considerations to be kept constantly in view by the promoters of the repeal: viz., the injury resulting to the public health from the operation of the tax; the danger of their being lulled into a false security of success and a relaxation of their efforts by the promised compromise of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; and the risk of their object being defeated if they suffered themselves to be diverted by the din and confusion of the expected Papal Aggression debate.

On those several points he observed that they were opposed "to the continuance of this impost, because it was detrimental to the health, cleanliness, and morals of the people, and because it was unequal in its operation (Cheers.) But then it was said they were beating the air—that the tax had already been semi-officially announced as to be abandoned. But he thought they ought not to trust too much to Ministerial promises; and he was afraid that it was intended to distract public attention by long-winded debates on the Papal Aggression. ("Hear, hear," and laughter.) He was prepared in the ensuing session to hear

Men prove their theories orthodox,
By epistles blows and knocks.

(Laughter.) He was prepared to witness an attempt to set different denominations of the ears, and to get scarce zealots to fight for different forms of faith which became them; therefore, to take care that their demands were not drawn in by the heat of controversy. (Cheers.) But he hoped they would take care that that should not be the case, and he had no doubt they would be successful. (Cheers.)

Lord Dudley Stuart, M.P., Sir De Lucy Evans, M.P., and Mr. W. Williams, M.P., having spoken in support of the resolution, it was unanimously agreed to, as also was a petition to Parliament founded upon it.

It was also resolved, amidst enthusiastic cheers, That as in the principle of the English constitution that no supplies are to be voted by Parliaments grievances, respectively request that, in case the Window-Tax be to be an unnecessary grievance, respectively request that, in case the Window-Tax be not repealed, the members of this borough to use their endeavours to stop the supplies.

That the members of this borough may not comply with the expressed wishes of the people, by giving an immediate total, and not a partial, repeal, but that they may propose some commutation or modification thereof, this meeting hereby requests that the committee of the meeting will consult those litigants and their functions, and determine what inferior proceedings may be necessary to obtain a total and immediate repeal of the window-tax, this meeting hereby pledging itself to support the committee in all things necessary to obtain their object.

The petition is to be presented to the House of Commons by Lord Dudley.

The second meeting was held in the Music-Hall, Store-street, and consisted chiefly of inhabitants of the united parishes of St. Giles and St. George, Bloomsbury. Mr. J. B. Cabell, M.P., presided. The principal speakers were Mr. Watty, M.P., Mr. Jacob Bell, M.P., Mr. Churchwarden George, &c. The resolutions were to be so strong a character as at the first meeting; they were merely declaratory of the oppressive and injurious nature of the tax, especially on the poor, and demanding its repeal in a petition to Parliament agreed to on the occasion.

THE TAXES ON KNOWLEDGE.

On Monday last, the annual meeting of the association which was formed about a year back at Manchester, for the purpose of effecting the repeal of the Paper, Stamp, and Advertisement Duties, was held at the Public-office in that town; Mr. Scholefield, M.P., in the chair.

The efforts of the association have been directed (as stated in the report) to the removal of these imposts by means of tracts illustrative of the injurious operation of those several imposts upon the diffusion of general education and instruction amongst the people.

The chairman addressed the meeting at considerable length. He observed, admitting that taxes were necessary evils, the next consideration was how they should be imposed, so as to make them a burden on the general body of the community. It was not to be wondered at that, in a time of war, taxes should have been laid on so liberally; but the time had now arrived (in fact it had arrived long since) when it was the duty of the Government to see that the taxes were laid on the right shoulders, so as to bear the weight of the taxes he complained of, as that the burthen did not fall where it ought to fall; namely, on the property instead of the industry of the country. The tax on property was something like 8 per cent.; whereas upon tea, sugar, soap, paper, and other articles of large consumption, it was as high as 50, and even 200 per cent. Take the paper tax, which was found to be most injurious in its operation; for whilst it served a useful purpose, it did all disservice to the publication of the most expensive class of books, it presented a heavy and heavily on works issued in a cheap form, and was, consequently, almost wholly against the issue of publications that would by their general circulation tend to the diffusion of sound and useful information among the people. But it was not only here that the grievous character of the paper duty was most sen-

sible felt: he spoke from experience when he said that the manufacturers felt it deeply, especially as regarding its drawback on their cost of export goods to the United States—in fact, for some descriptions of Worlentian paper the cost of the paper was such, because of the high rate of the duty, that it almost deprived manufacturers of the power to send out their goods. The advertisement and newspaper stamp duties he regarded as equally objectionable, and the time had come for their repeal.

He then spoke also quite strongly in favour of a repeal of these duties; if they were removed he believed they may be repealed daily paper for 2d., or at most 3d.; besides that, by the repeal of the paper duty, only a small sum would be found for thousands who could not at present obtain it. Some of the best paper-makers had emigrated to America; one of his own men who had gone out had written to say that he was able to take in three newspapers daily, so cheap were they in consequence of the absence of prohibitory duties.

He did not doubt that the Government would prefer taking off the window-tax, because, as with all expensive Government, they dreaded the spread of political influence amongst the masses.

He suggested that twenty members of Parliament should immediately wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and urge the repeal of all the taxes upon it.

Mr. Joseph Sturge said that he was not only opposed to these particular taxes, but to every indirect tax. If he could have his way, he would have a property-tax to-morrow; at the same time, he looked upon the newspaper and paper duties as the worst amongst all the taxes, therefore he was most strongly in favour of their repeal.

Mr. Alderman Hawkes, Mr. Councillor Allday, and other gentlemen having spoken warmly in favour of the abolition of these duties, the report was adopted; Mr. Scholefield, M.P., was re-appointed President, and a committee elected to carry out the objects of the association during the ensuing year.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

The street spectacle represented in the accompanying Engraving illustrates more vividly than can columns of written description, the rapid march of California from an unexplored desert to the rank of a State of the American Union, in celebration of whose birth this imposing scene was enacted. Three years ago, "the shores of the Pacific, about San Francisco (says a writer in the *Times*) were scantly tenanted by a few scores of Russians and Spaniards, who lived without rivalry or suspicion, and who scarcely waited for the sanction of their respective governments to effect such changes or sales of ground as convenience might suggest. Nobody knew or cared whether the enormous tract beyond contained inhabitants or not, and a journey across its plains was considered as remarkable as a journey through Central Africa. If we were to speak at the moment of the province of Sonora, it is probable that nine-tenths of it would be without any distinct conception of the locality referred to, yet Sonora is the next 'country' to California, and in 1847 one region was about as well known as the other. This remote district is now the seat of a powerful independent State—a State which has been founded and constituted, from beginning to end, in about thirty months' time, and which, though junior in political birth even to the French Republic, has obtained a formal recognition of its existence, and is exercising all the functions of an organized community. The treasures of California have hitherto wrought their chief wonders in the hands of their production, and, though they have not yet materially affected the currency of Europe, they have called into being at the extremities of the Pacific a community unparalleled in the manifold fusions of race or combinations of men."

The 29th of October was the day selected by the Californians as the birthday of their State—as a festival to be celebrated in honour of their admission to the American Union. As the day broke upon San Francisco, the American banner, augmented by an additional star, was hoisted in the centre of the town, under a "federal salute" of artillery. The echoes were taken up by the ships in the harbour, and the flags of every country under the sun found their appropriate place. Then commenced the procession, which may have been too theatrical for some tastes, but was scarcely more so than our last Lord Mayor's Show. First came the City Marshal, in white and gold; and then his staff, in sky blue and silver. Next followed the "Mounted Californians," who would, we are told, "have been stronger had they not been disappointed in horses." They were mounted by the "Californian Pioneers," who carried a banner of white satin fringed with gold, and charged with a device exhibiting a pioneer just landed, who strikes with a piece of rock with his hammer, and discovers the State Seal of the community underneath. From his mouth issues the exclamation "Eureka!" (the motto of the Great Seal); while by his side stands a native in a genuine attitude of dismay. After these followed "the Guards" commanded by Captain Howan, an aristocratic battalion, which appeared in new uniforms for the occasion, and attracted particular applause. The officers of the State and of the army constituted up the interval between the military and the civil portion of the procession, which was headed by a company of Englishmen, under the red cross of St. George, and attended by Germans, Italians, and Spaniards. Next came the settlers from the Celestial Empire, arrayed in the richest brocades of the East, who carried a banner of crimson satin, on which was an inscription of great length and elaborate calligraphy, but which, when interpreted, imported nothing more pretentious than "China boys." In number they were about fifty, commanded by their own chief, and decorously obedient to his word.

At this stage of the procession was introduced the triumphal car, a costly vehicle, drawn by six white horses, and containing thirty little boys, dressed in "white shirts, black pants, and liberty caps," each representing a State of the Union; while the honour of personating California was represented by a beautiful little girl, who stood in the middle, arrayed in white satin, with a wreath of roses. The car bore a motto of political significance. "It must be preserved!"

From the representation of the Federation, the pomp descended to the delegates of the provinces. The Mayor and Aldermen appeared in dark-blue scarfs, with gold trimmings and white armlets, and were followed by the police, who, in this land of freedom, formed an integral part of the procession, instead of escorting it. They marched "in strong force" under colours of azure satin, and with a burst of their own. Next to the perils of theft in California come those of combustion; and the "fire department" accordingly outshone all other guilds in the brilliancy of its displays. The "St. Francis Hook and Ladder Company" appeared with their engines beautifully decorated, and bore for their device a burning building, with the motto, "We destroy to save." The "Municipal," who succeeded them, turned out "six carriages, one engine, two sunctions, and three hose carriages," their colours, like those of Bohemia, being white and scarlet. But the "Sansome Hook and Ladder Brigade" outdid them all; for while their carriages were covered with decorations, "even to the hubs of the wheels," their firemen had ingeniously raised their ladders in the form of a pyramid, on the summit of which was perched a real live eagle, "captured that morning at the Mission by Alderman Green." Lastly by a true Parisian conceit, there were drawn on a car, a veritable printing press in full play, from which were thrown out copies of a laureate ode, composed by a lady for the occasion. An oration as long as a President's message, a concerted execution of the ode by the entire population, a general dance, and a universal banquet, concluded the proceeding of the day.

The writer already quoted thus points attention to the extraordinary character of the facts symbolized by this pageant:—"Here was a community of some hundreds of thousands of souls collected from all quarters of the known world—Poles, Germans, and Peruvians, Englishmen and Mexicans, Germans and New-Englanders, Spaniards and Chinese—all organised under old Saxon institutions, and actually marching under the command of a Mayor and Aldermen. Nor was this all, for the extemned State had demanded and obtained its admission into the most powerful federation in the world, and was recognised as a constituent part of the American Union. A third of the time which has been consumed in erecting our Houses of Parliament, has here sufficed to create a State with a territory as large as Great Britain, a population difficult to number, and destinies which none can foresee."

The illustration, from a sketch by J. Prendergast, and lithographed of large size, shows the procession crossing the Plaza of San Francisco, as seen to be inclosed not by an assemblage of rude wooden buildings, as seen in the earlier views, but containing stores of architectural pretension, in one of which, by the way, is an assimilation to the Gothic of the Old World.

It has already been mentioned that the new golden state has its *California Standard News*, No. 6 is established with five engravings."—Two Views of Yerba, one of the Capitol Hill itself, the other taken from the summit of Capitol Hill; a group consisting of a Mexican and his Horse; the South Side of Portsmouth-square; and an excellent likeness of the late Hon. Harriet Bigelow, executed at the eleventh hour, and possessing peculiar interest in the present moment."

Our Correspondent from San Francisco adds:—"It may be interesting to know that your journal has a large sale here, and is as regularly looked for at a town near the Sierra Nevada as at Islington."

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

The new Cabinet has not lasted long. The result of the "want of confidence" debate has proved fatal to it, and France is now, a second time within ten days, without the guidance of an Administration.

The anxiety of the nickname "party of order" to read Louis Napoleon a lesson, through the defeat of his Government, has induced them to form a coalition for the occasion with the Moniteur; but to gain the entire credit to the discreditable move presented considerable difficulty, for those who, on the 18th, formed the *gracemen* of the charges brought against Ministers by the Red men; while such Ministerial acts as the latest eulogized constituted the ground of hostility to them.

The *gracemen* of the 18th, however, had accepted the following amendment, and it was at once accepted by the coalition:—

"The National Assembly declares that it has no confidence in the Ministry, and passes the following amendment, to read Louis Napoleon a lesson, through the defeat of his Government; but to give the entire credit to the discreditable move presented considerable difficulty, for those who, on the 18th, formed the *gracemen* of the charges brought against Ministers by the Red men; while such Ministerial acts as the latest eulogized constituted the ground of hostility to them."

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CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

Ordinations have been appointed to be held in Lent, 1851, by the Bishops of Carlisle, Chester, Ely, Exeter, Gloucester and Bristol, Lincoln, Manchester, Peterborough, Rochester, Salisbury, and Worcester.

ELECTION OF A SCOTCH BISHOP.—In consequence of the resignation of the Bishop of Moray and Ross by the Right Rev. Dr. Lowe, the primus (Bishop Skinner) has issued a mandate to the presbyters to meet on Friday, the 31st inst., for the purpose of electing a successor to the new Bishop. It is expected that the presbytery will be divided in opinion, and that there will be a severe contest between the Presbyterians and Low Church parties.

COLONIAL BISHOPRIES.—There have been some difficulties in the way of filling up the bishopric of Nova Scotia, rendered vacant by the death of Bishop Inglis. It is now definitely settled that Dr. Field, the present Bishop of Newfoundland, will succeed to the Bishopric of Nova Scotia, and that the new Bishop of Newfoundland will be the Rev. Ernest Hawkins, B.D., Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, and Incumbent Minister of Curzon-street Chapel, Mayfair.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S LIVING.—The Lord Chancellor has presented the Rev. Charles Cuthbert Southey, M.A., son of the poet, to the vicarage of Ardleigh, Essex, vacant by the death of the Rev. Henry Bishop; and the Rev. F. Robbins, M.A., to the Rectory of Cootehall, Northamptonshire, rendered vacant by the cessation of the Rev. W. Wake.

OXFORD PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY.—The Right Rev. Dr. Jacobson proposes to resume his private lectures in the Chapel of Common Prayer, on Tuesday, February 25. The Reciting Professor of Divinity will also begin a course of lectures on Thursday, the 13th of March, at St. Ola's Chapel, at Christchurch. These lectures are intended for students of divinity who have passed their examination for the degree of B.A.

OWEN'S COLLEGE.—Mr. W. C. Williamson, surgeon, of Manchester, has been appointed by the trustees of Owen's College to fill the chair of natural history, which includes the teaching of botany, zoology, geology, and physiognomy. Mr. H. H. Read, who has long resided in Manchester as a teacher of several modern languages, has been appointed professor of German.

The Canonyry in the Cathedral of Bristol, held by the late Rev. Lord W. Somerset, and which was in the gift of the Lord Chancellor, will not be filled up.

THE QUEEN'S COLLEGE, BIRMINGHAM.—ENDOWMENT OF A CHAIR OF PASTORAL THEOLOGY.—The Rev. Dr. Warneford has intimated to the trustees of his former benefice, the Rev. Chancellor Law, the Rev. Vaughan Thomas, and William S. Cox, Esq., his intention to place in their hands the sum of £1,000, which he has already paid over by him, as an endowment for a chair of pastoral theology. This sum, he says, is to be given to the Church of England, in trust for the Rev. Dr. Keane to preside over a portion of it, with the title of Professor of Ecclesiastical History, and has entitled many gratulations and the congratulations and indulgent wishes of Protestant Theologians. The Times has thought the "saudacity" worthy of a leading article.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE INDEX.—The Congregation of the Index has placed a work, recently published by Professor Verier, of Cork College, entitled "Historical Analysis of Christian Civilisation," on the Index; in other words, proscribes it and forbids it to be read, except to those who have copies to deliver them up to their Bishop. The Pope has confirmed the Indexation of this treatise, and has given Royal authority, this act of the Pope has added to the public indiction. Though this book does not seem to merit much attention, the prohibition will probably bring it into notice, and may serve to make some Roman Catholics throw off an authority which prescribes even what they shall know and what they shall think of history.

DR. WHENAN HAS HAD A DOCUMENT SENT TO HIM.—At the instance of a gentleman legally connected with the City, containing emendations on the Cardinal's bull, Dr. Whenan has had a document sent to him, the question of the legality or otherwise of his archiepiscopal assumptions. The step has been taken without the cognizance of his Majesty's law officers.

THE CARDINAL HAS A REPLY TO THE ADDRESS OF THE CONGREGATED TRADES OF LIMERICK.—To the misapprehension, complete as it had been unexpected, of the Cardinal's name of the great Papal bull, "But from all parts of the Church we have received," &c., &c., of this document, he has, in his usual sacred cause, It was therefore but natural that Catholic Ireland should ever go beyond other countries in warm and generous feelings for us. As to the kind of offers which you make of shelter in any possible case of future oppression, while I most sincerely thank you for the generous feelings they display, I beg to assure you that in spite of the interested exertions lately, and in part successfully, made to have me removed from the Curia, the hearts of English people is too sound to allow itself to be carried away to the extreme consequences of any kind proposal; and no greater proof of this can be desired than that our experiences of the people's conduct. "I dwell in the midst of my people in peace," and so, thank God, do all our clergy."

THE PARISHIONERS OF ST. BARNABAS, PIMLICO.—have announced to the Bishop of London, that they are determined, with the least possible delay, to take the legal steps as far as may be necessary of trying in the ecclesiastical court those questions for which his Lordship has pronounced Mr. Bennett to be "unfitful to the Church of England" in a sentence which necessarily slights him out from officiating any more in the Church.

DIFFERENCES AMONGST THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—If there are disputes in the Anglican Church, the Catholic Church seems not wholly exempt from them. The Roman Catholic clerics of the Diocese of Beverley assembled at Selby, Yorkshire, on the 14th instant, the Very Rev. Dr. Deacon, Vicar of the District in the chair, adopted an address to Cardinal Wiseman, to his influence to establish such laws and such institutions for their ecclesiastical government as may be according with the free constitution and equitable laws of their country. They ask—

1. That their ecclesiastical constitution be compounded of the civil law of England, the canon law (spirituals) of the Catholic Church, the common law, and the just and equitable laws of their beloved country.

2. That they disapprove all spiritual interference with the civil rights of individuals in reference to property.

3. They disapprove the introduction of any new foreign system of ecclesiastical legislation.

4. That the members of the church oppose the establishment of any ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

5. The members of the church have long borne with impatience the system which has prevailed in the nomination of bishops. They now look forward to a complete change, a change which may give to the governed an effective affirmation in the nomination of those who are to be their bishops.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham, Dr. Hogarth, has convened his clergy for the purpose of adopting some similar resolutions. It seems not improbable, therefore, that the restoration of the Roman Catholic Church in England may be the end of the Papal power. Bishops under the control of the congregations would not be the slaves of the Pope.

THE ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPES OF THE IRISH PROVINCES AND BISHOPRIES OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF ENGLAND AND IRELAND.—have presented an humble address to their Majesty, expressing duty and loyalty, stating that the same laws govern both the Church of England and the Papal Church in Ireland, and that they are very uneasy at observing, in the addresses which the Papal proceeding has got forth, that all the concern has been manifested for the English branch of the Church, a title having been given to it unknown to the law; they do not suppose there is any intention of dividing the Churches, but, knowing that different views are entertained of the two branches, they cannot but feel alarmed at any such division. They therefore, in their address, would have more real injury to the whole Church than proceedings of the Bishop of Rome, who, they disclaim a desire to inflict any restraints on the just rights of conscience, and they pray, that, in any defensive measures which may be adopted, the two branches of the Church may be considered as one, and that the same legislative protection may be extended to both. This address, signed by the two Archbishops and the ten Bishops of Ireland, was most graciously received by her Majesty. Mr. Grey's letter conveying this intimation to the Archbishops and Bishops is dated January 17th.

GUERNSEY.—There was a meeting at Guernsey so long ago as the 13th instant, the notices of which only found their way into the morning journals on the 23d; a pretty strong proof that the interest of such meetings has evaporated. The chair was taken by Captain Saumarez Brock, R.N.; and resolutions and an address to her Majesty, of the usual character from meetings of her Majesty's Protestant subjects, were agreed.

WHITTINGTON CLUB AND METROPOLITAN ATHENAEUM.—On Tuesday evening the annual soirée of the members and friends of this institution took place at the club-house, Arundel-street, Strand, under the presidency of Mr. Charles Lushington, M.P. The handsome suite of rooms, which have recently undergone the process of renovation, were thrown open to the visitors, and the evening was passed in a variety of amusements, including musical performances, &c. In the course of the evening Mr. Lushington delivered a brief congratulatory address, in which he stated that the period of his presidency had expired, and he thanked the members of the institution for the compliment they had paid to him and Mrs. Lushington, in according to them the privileges of members. Amongst the attractions of the evening was a concert of vocal music, in which Mr. G. A. Cooper, Miss M. S. Weston, Miss M. Williams, Mrs. Mrs. C. Cooper, Mr. J. A. Lovell, and Mr. C. Carte were the principal performers. At ten o'clock dancing commenced, and the movements were kept up with increasing spirit until a late hour. The attendance was very numerous. It appeared, from a printed statement circulated on the occasion, that the financial and general condition of the institution for the quarter ending December 25, 1850, had been more satisfactory than at any previous period.

ROYAL NAVAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—A meeting of the subscribers and partners of the Society took place on Monday, at the Thatched-bow, Temple, S.W. James's-street; Rev. Mr. A. J. C. Weston, in the chair. The minutes of the last special meeting having been read and confirmed, the chairman said, that before they went into the general business of the meeting, they would commence with the election of a secretary. There had been 22 applications for this office, and the committee appointed at the last special meeting to look into the merits of the various candidates and their testimonials, had reported in favour of the Rev. Mr. Hope Steed, Master in the Royal Navy, by a very large majority. The usual business of the general meeting was proceeded with. It appeared from the report that the receipts for the last quarter, including a balance left, amounted to £1,463, and the expenditure to £1615, leaving a balance of £349. The report having been unanimously adopted, a vote was granted to the applicants. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business of the day.

GENERAL LYING-IN HOSPITAL.—A meeting of the subscribers and partners of this charity took place on Monday, at the hospital, York-road, Lambeth; Mr. Somers Cocks, M.P., in the chair. It appeared from the report that the number of persons admitted to the hospital during the past year was 201 married women, and 134 single; besides which, 455 patients had been attended at their own residences. The receipts for the past year had amounted to £1,615, and the disbursements to £1,400, leaving a balance of £215.

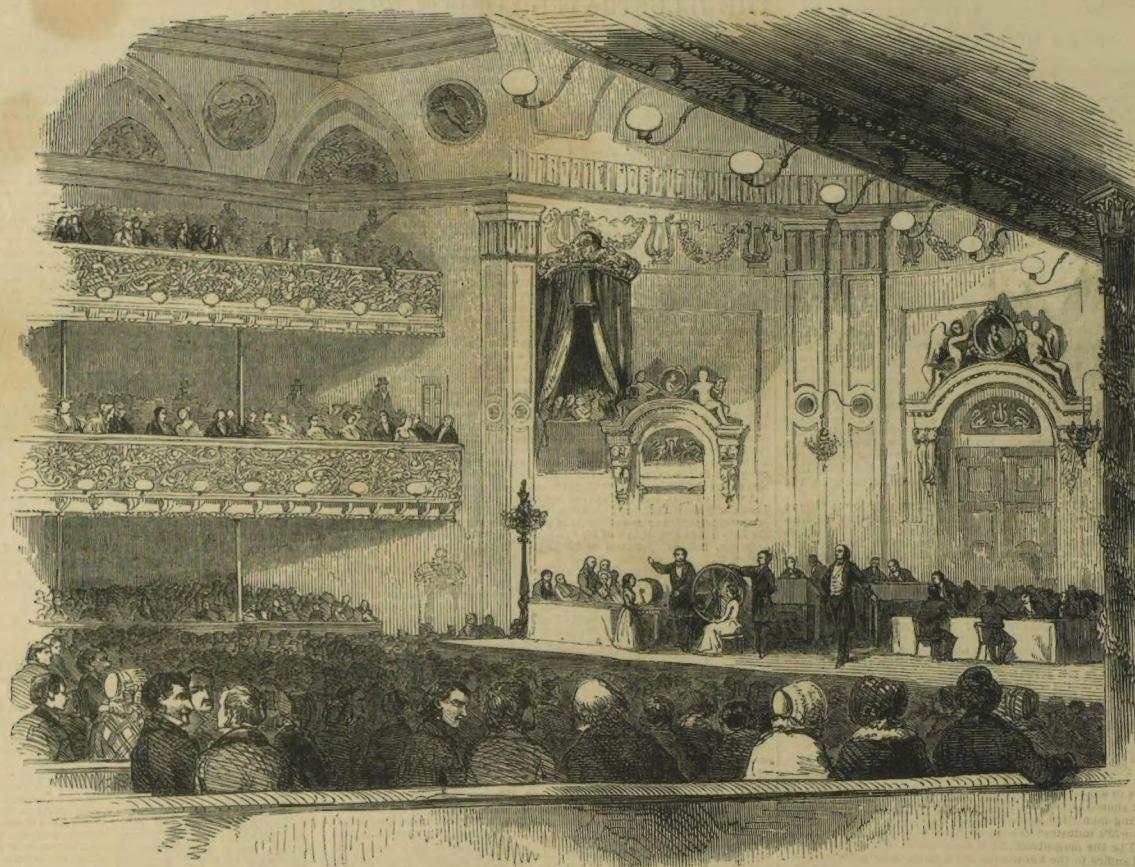
PEACEFUL ACCIDENT.—At a building of considerable extent, in course of erection for the Chinese New Exhibition, near Albert-bridge, Hyde-Park, on Saturday evening last, a number of the men, about to quit work, approached one end of the high scaffolding, when their weight resting upon one of the partitions, lifted a large portion of the brickwork, and caused the scaffolding and a great part of the wall to fall. Five or six of the bricklayers and labourers were precipitated into the great mass of masonry, and, though severely injured, were rescued with all possible expedition. To St. George's Hospital came William Rowles, bricklayer, received a serious scalp wound; Michael Connell, labourer, similarly injured; William Tool, labourer, fracture of several ribs; the other parties, fortunately, received no injury of any importance.

The lead mine recently discovered near the town of Galway has now a number of hands employed on it at full work, and the results promise to be of a most successful and profitable nature.

PAPAL AGGRESSION.

A MEETING IN IRELAND.—The proceedings on account of the Papal Aggression seem drawing to a close. We have only one meeting to mention, and that is of Catholics of the diocese of Elphin, at which resolutions were passed to condemn the proceedings of the Pope, and to protest against his encroachments on the monasteries and canons which a hireling press, uncharitable, malignant, and a weak-minded Foreigner have exultingly propagated against their holy religion; to demand of our liberal members to use every effort to resist in the United Parliament any ministry that should attempt to diminish the civil or religious rights of any portion of her Majesty's subjects; and to announce their pleasure that the greater portion of the Protestants of Ireland, with few exceptions, are not identified either with the uncharitable onset made upon their own Catholic fellow-subjects.

THE CLERGY OF WATERFORD AND LIMERICK.—have addressed the Bishop of Cashel, and, after referring to the humiliation of the Irish branch of the Established Church, request the Bishop to convey their sympathies to their British brethren, with whom they have common interests, common joys, and common trials. In their reply, the clerics advise to the encouragement of the Papacy has received from the members of the Church in Ireland, in their meetings and assemblies, The Clergy of Waterford and Limerick have addressed the Bishop of Cashel, and, after referring to the humiliation of the Irish branch of the Established Church, request the Bishop to convey their sympathies to their British brethren, with whom they have common interests, common joys, and common trials. 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DISTRIBUTION OF THE AMERICAN ART-UNION PRIZES, IN TRIPLEX HALL, NEW YORK.

THE AMERICAN ART-UNION DISTRIBUTION.

NEVER (says our New York Correspondent), not even on the nights of the "Nightingale," has the capacity of Triplex Hall been more fully tested than on the 20th of December, the evening appointed for the distribution of the American Art-Union prizes. The immense floor (25 feet wider than Exeter Hall), the aisles, and the galleries, before the stage, and beside the doors, were crowded to excess. There was not a foot to spare. Surely the Fine Arts are not entirely neglected in the third city on the globe (late census gives New York 750,000); when the largest bodies ever congregated under a roof have been allured there by the charms of music and painting.

On the present occasion, the Art-Union distributed 1000 prizes, 400 of which were paintings, the residue being bronze statuettes, medals, &c., besides which, each of its 16,500 subscribers will receive a large engraving and five smaller ones, in size similar to Darley's Outlines, distributed last year.

The meeting was opened by an address from its very popular president, A. M. Cozzens, Esq.; a report from the Executive Committee was then presented; after which, the treasurer, G. W. Austin, Esq., read his report, which was succeeded by the most important business of the evening—that is, the drawing of the numbers; and it was curious to one disinterested to watch the eagerness of the spectators to hear in what part of the continent some favourite picture of Cole, Kensett, or Casilear had fallen, as they were thus being sown broadcast over the land, and notice how they would give vent to their applause if it happened to be some public institution or lady fair that carried away the prize.

The large revenue of the Art-Union, greater than that of any similar institution, must give it great power, whether for good or evil; and, although in the United States there are some individuals that cannot decide as to which side the balance lies, yet in the business part of its management all parties seem to agree that it is conducted with all that energy and enterprise that has become proverbial of the American people.

FINE ARTS.

MACLISE'S PORTRAIT OF MR. MACREADY IN "WERNER." This picture, which is about to be engraved by Mr. W. C. Sharpe, is now on view at Mr. Hogarth's, in the Haymarket. It represents the scene between Werner and Josephine, in which he insists with her on the reality of their condition:—

Even when we sorrow! save what we are—sick beggars
Who would read in this form?
The high soul of the son of a long line?
Who in this sunken, sickly eye, the pride
Of rank and ancestry? In this wan cheek,
A man daily feasts a thousand vassals?

The bitterness of the anguish expressed in these lines is truthfully and intensely exhibited by the gifted artist. The sardonic laughter, the unrevealed sorrow, the shame, the indignation, the remorse, are all embodied or indicated. The picture owes little to colouring, the principal portion being the reflection of light through a window glancing on old armour and arras. The figure of Josephine also has some good artistic points. Kneeling in an attitude of despair, she is illuminated by the face of Werner, features being visible, a matter of some difficulty to execute so well successfully. The grouping of objects and the accessories are as in all this artist's works, exceedingly clever. The labour throughout, indeed, appears to have been a labour of love, and the result accordingly is highly gratifying. The picture, we are told, is the property of Mr. John Forster; and we cannot but congratulate him on the possession of so excellent a work of art, on a subject so dearly associated with himself by the ties of friendship and admiration.

DESTRUCTION OF THE PORTUGUESE FRIGATE, "DONNA MARIA II."

We regret to learn by the Overland China mail, just received, that, on the morning of the 30th of October last, the Portuguese 32 gun frigate *Donna Maria II.* was blown up at the Typha, about two P.M.; and that, of those on board, scarcely a man survived.

It appears that a salute was fired at noon on occasion of the birthday of the King Consort of Portugal: about half-past two the vessel blew up with a tremendous explosion, and, of a crew of upwards of 200 officers

and men, only nine were picked up by the boats of the United States sloop-of-war *Marietta*, which were instantly despatched to render assistance; and, of these nine, five have since died. The son of Captain d'Assis, a lieutenant, and a purser chance to be on shore at the time of the catastrophe.

It is curious to note that Captain Glendy and some of his officers, besides civilians, were on board at the time, but this, we are happy to say, was not the case; and though the *Marietta* was anchored close to, she escaped injury, her safety lying in her very proximity, the most dangerous projectiles being thrown over or beyond her. The only accident that befel her was, that one of her men tending boat alongside was severely injured on the knee by the falling of an iron bolt.

The body of Captain d'Assis e Silva has been found.

The Illustration shows the exploding vessel, with the American sloop, *Marietta*, lying close to; Macao is seen in the distance.

ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION OF 1851.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

MY LORD.—Within a few days, the structure designed to receive the contributions of the world's industry will be completed. The question now arises, as to the mode of admission of the world's people. And it is upon this important subject that I now claim the liberty of addressing you.

Shall admission be taxed by payment? or shall it be free? Each mode has its difficulties; but, after an anxious consideration of the matter, it is my conviction that free entry will be at once more simply practicable, and more in harmony with the enlarged and enlightened purpose of the Exhibition.

There are no less than seven thousand exhibitors. Surely no tax should be levied upon them for the right of visiting an Exhibition, to the staple of which they have themselves contributed. And I am further confirmed in my belief of the practicability and wisdom of free entrance—to be modified as I shall hereafter propose—by the unanimous and hearty opinion of very many of the most influential members of the city of London.

The Royal Commissioners have incurred a large debt—a debt that must be liquidated. And it is to be feared that a too anxious sense of this obligation may induce the levying of a rate of entry that shall, to the million, amount to prohibition.

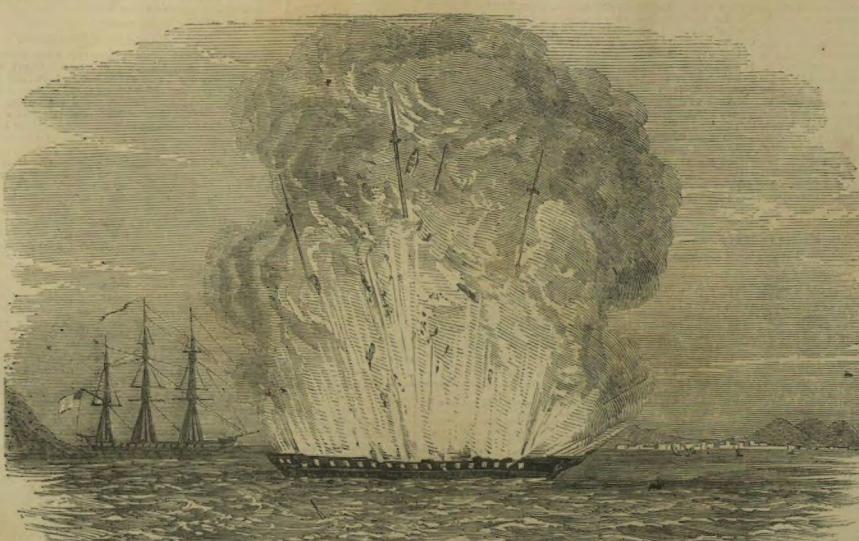
I have therefore to propose, that, for the first fortnight of the Exhibition, admission shall be, in every case, by payment. And further, that one day in the week (and for many reasons I should select Wednesday) shall, for the whole term of the Exhibition, be reserved for the higher classes of all nations who may prefer to pay for the exclusive privilege of admission, rather than encounter the inconvenience of a crowd. With these exceptions that the entrance shall be entirely free.

The sum taken during the first fortnight and on the one day of each week would, no doubt, be very considerable, nevertheless a large deficit would remain onerous upon the Royal Commissioners. This deficit I am emboldened to solicit your Lordship to meet by a Parliamentary grant. And this solicitation I make the more readily, from the belief that from the very fact of the Exhibition a large addition will accrue to the revenue of the country; an addition—it is calculated upon trustworthy authority—of upwards of two millions. Now of these two millions how small the item required to throw open the doors of the world's Exhibition to the world's citizens.

When the subject of the Exhibition was brought before Parliament last year, it was very properly dealt with; for as everything was then in a state of uncertainty as to the future, had Government interfered, the whole matter must have passed into their own hands. The case at present is entirely altered: the building is nearly finished, and will shortly be ready for the reception of the world's wares—and the great difficulty at the moment is to find space for the vast quantity of articles likely to be sent.

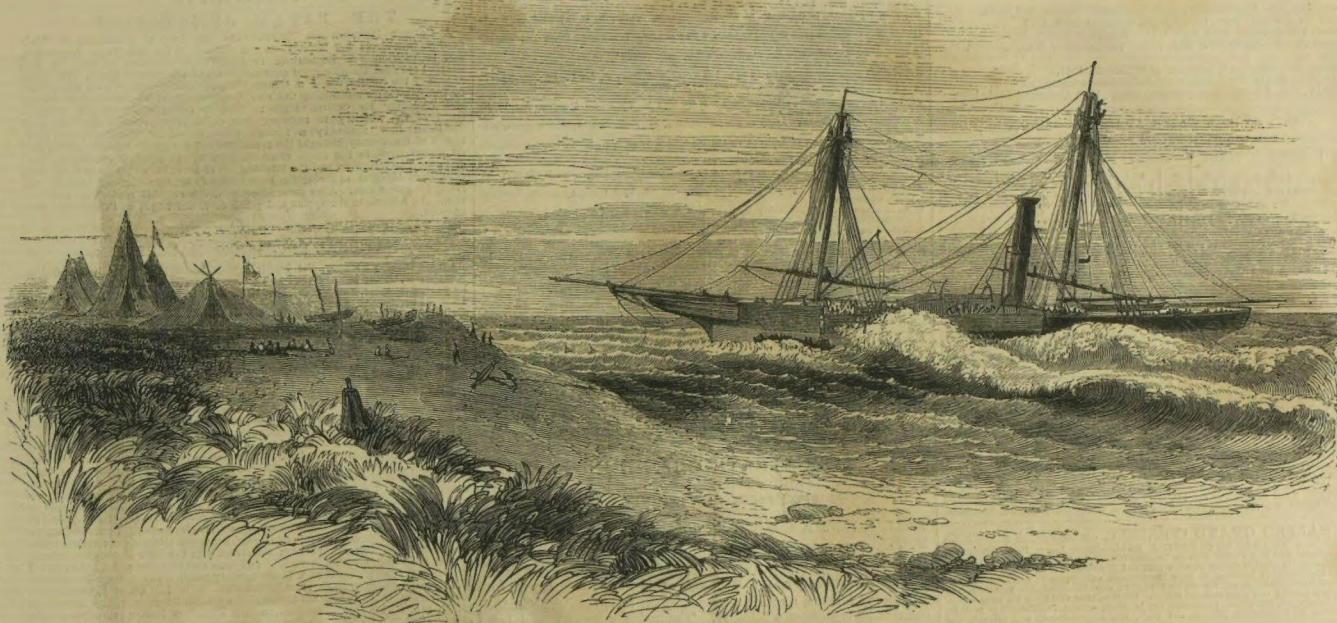
We have invited all the nations of the earth to a friendly competition of skill; to this invitation many have heartily responded. We have also invited the whole family of man to come and participate in the first banquet the world has ever dedicated to peaceful industry and to intellectual triumphs. An event so pregnant with high and humanising good to all mankind should be informed with the most liberal—with a purely cosmopolitan spirit. If it be otherwise—if, at the very threshold of the building dedicated to this industrial banquet, a tax be laid upon those who would partake of its beneficial influence; a banquet, moreover, to which thousands of the players have contributed—the whole purpose of the Exhibition will forego a grace which otherwise would endow it with a crowning lustre.

Several foreign Governments have voted considerable sums to aid their people in the object of the Exhibition; and I know that already in France and Germany the idea of payment (for foreigners are especially accustomed to gratuitous entry into all national buildings) has been



EXPLOSION OF THE PORTUGUESE FRIGATE "DONNA MARIA II." AT TYPHA.





H. M. STEAM-VESSEL "FLAMER," ON A REEF SOUTH-EAST OF MONROVIA.

canvassed in a spirit which, as an Englishman, I feel to be a reproach to my country. It is this reproach, my Lord, that I beg of you, by the consent of Parliament, to put away from us.

But not alone for the stranger do I ask for free admission. I ask it for the large body of our own working classes; for those men whose skill, whose industry, will, I doubt not, be triumphantly represented at the forthcoming Congress of Labour. Thousands of these men—the sinews of the land—are at this hour depriving themselves of many little household comforts in order to visit London; and the inevitable cost of such a visit should not be increased by a further tax. Therefore, I ask for the working-men of England a free entry into the structure dedicated to the world's industry—free as the light that pervades it.

A gallant ship will be the magnitude of the Exhibition, that no one, two, or three visits will suffice to the knowledge of its manifold objects. This will be made sufficiently obvious when it is known that to make merely the circuit of the tables will be to make a journey of no less than 20 miles. Hence, with paid admission, the visitor will be tempted to spend a day, when otherwise he would at various visits occupy but a few hours. There would, in the gratuitous admission, be a flowing stream of people, if I may use the figure; whereas, with exacted payment, visitors will become fixtures from morning till night.

I might, my Lord, dilate upon this subject; but I hope that I have said sufficient to obtain of your Lordship a patriotic consideration of the question—Shall the Exhibition of the World's industry be free to those whom England invites to meet in generous rivalry? or, shall we send forth invitations, and then tax our guests?

I have the honour to remain, your Lordship's obedient humble servant,

JOSEPH PAXTON.

Exhibition-buildings, Hyde-park, Jan. 22, 1851.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

COMMISSIONS OF MILITARY OFFICERS.—The evidence given by the military secretary before the committee on army and ordnance expenditure, shows that the number of candidates for commissions during the last seven years amounted to between 1000 and 1200, and above 200 had been upwards of three years on the list. It is further stated by Lord F. St. Leger, that the practice of giving these commissions by rotation in the selection is made not by the Commander-in-Chief. Such being the case, it is quite clear that interest with the Commander-in-Chief for the time being is the only guarantee of a candidate's success.

THE VACANT INFANTRY COLONELCY.—It is understood that Major-General Dalmer, the Colonel of the 47th Regiment, who formerly commanded the 23rd Fusiliers, is likely to succeed to the latter regiment. Major-General Lightfoot, whose distinguished services have caused his name to be reported for a regiment on several occasions when a colonelcy of infantry had been vacant, will probably succeed Major-General Dalmer as Colonel of the 47th Regiment.

THE OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.—There is a difference of opinion, as to the best way between the military authorities and the Government with respect to filling up this office. A saving of £1800 a year by the abolition of the appointment is, it is said, desired by the Government; but, on the other hand, the Commander-in-Chief insists on the necessity of keeping up the appointment, and his Grace has, it is well known, been applied to by a considerable number of general officers for this hitherto lucrative appointment. It is at all events certain, should a general officer be selected to fill the office, that he will be tried by court-martial.

The *Cyclops* has brought home a mail from the coast, and left the

Centaur steam-frigate bearing the Commodore, off Ambriz on the 21st of November. The *Cyclops* fell in with a rich prize the day before she spoke the Commodore—a brigantine, under Brazilian colours, with 630 men employed. Mr. Cook, master's-assistant, died; and Mr. Webb, master's-assistant, and about 20 seamen, marines, and boys, have been sent home invalids in the *Cyclops* and transferred to the Naval Hospital at Haslar. The *Hound* has embarked Commander St. Leger, his officers, and the remainder of the *Flamer*'s ship's company. They will be sent to the Admiralty to be tried by court-martial.

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METROPOLITAN NEWS.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—A very interesting paper, by Mr. Chubb, on the "Construction of Latches and Locks," was read on Wednesday night to a numerous assembly of the members of this society. The lecturer explained, with great clearness and ability, the various parts of the different kinds of latches and locks—how easily they might be opened with splices of bent wire; and how superior was the principle of the tumblers locks, of which the old Egyptian lock is the simplest, and Mr. Chubb's the most perfect specimen. In regard to the latter, not only is it impossible to open it with keys, but any attempt to do so puts in action the locks supplied by Mr. Chubb to the Westminster Bridge and other persons, if any one should try to open it by false keys. The lecturer acts in such a manner, that the lock can afterwards be opened only by a master-key in possession of the governor. In the course of the lecture, some curious details were introduced, attesting the extraordinary skill and ingenuity which accomplished burglars bring to the practice of their desperate profession. The success which has of late attended their exploits, renders the information and details given by Mr. Chubb peculiarly valuable, and it is entitled to the thanks of the public. The locks were interesting and complicated in appearance, as often, he assures us, but a sham used for the purpose of masking a very common lock as one of a new and superior invention. Many drawings and models were exhibited in illustration of the lecturer's descriptions; and the lecturer was warmly applauded. An interesting discussion on the subject was maintained for some time after the conclusion of the lecture.

MIDDLE TEMPLE.—Mr. Philimore, who was lately appointed lecturer by the members of the Middle Temple, in the place of Mr. Bowyer resigned, delivered his inaugural lecture on Friday evening in the Middle Temple Hall, to a large and distinguished audience, among whom were Vice-Chancellor Knight Bruce, Mr. Justice Talfourd, the Attorney-General, Rev. Mr. Anderson (the Master of Lincoln's-inn); Mr. Bethell, Q.C.; Mr. Crowder, M.P.; Mr. Lee, Q.C.; Mr. B. Bond Cabbell, M.P., and others, the benches of the four inns. The lecture, which occupied an hour and a half in delivery, was a very eloquent and masterly review of the works on the great law produced since the royal and learned Society commenced their illustrations drawn from the great jurists, philosophers, orators, and writers of modern times of the beneficial influence of the study of the civil law upon mind in the development of jurisprudence and civilisation. The eloquence of the learned gentleman, his extensive erudition, and many a well-expressed eulogy on high names, frequently drew forth the applause of the audience in the course of his lecture, and again most heartily at the close of it, when all were unanimous in their admiration of the discourse.

PROPOSED TRIBUNAL OF COMMERCE.—On Monday evening, a delegation from the merchants, bankers, and manufacturers of London, waited upon the Lord Mayor, upon the subject of establishing a Tribunal of Commerce and presented to his Lordship a memorial in favour of the project, signed by upwards of a thousand persons. Mr. Lyne, of Monk-lane, in representing to his Lordship the vast importance and advantages of such an establishment, stated that England was almost the only country in which a Tribunal of Commerce did not exist, and expressed a hope that his Lordship would consent to take the chief initiative in so far as to hold meetings hereafter. The Lord Mayor assented to the delegation that he would do his best to promote the project.

INCUMENCY OF ST. JAMES'S, CURTIAN-ROAD.—One of the more recent clerical appointments in the metropolis has been that of Rev. James W. Markwell, M.A., of Christ's College, Cambridge, who has been presented and licensed by the Bishop of London, to the Incumbency of St. James's, Curtin-road, Finsbury. Income, £925 per annum. Mr. Markwell was four years curate of St. Matthew's, Manchester, and five years of St. Clement Danes, in the Strand. The rev. gentleman has subsequently officiated at Curzon-street in Trinity Church.

CHURCH EXTENSION.—The incorporated society for promoting the enlargement, building, and repairing of churches and chapels, held its usual monthly meeting on Monday last; the Rev. Dr. Spyri in the chair. The cases requiring assistance from the society were more numerous than those before the last meeting, but, in consequence of further information being required respecting some of them, the committee were only able to make grants to seven places, five being for the erection of new churches at Hackney, in the parish of Stortford; Great Marlow, Bucks; Hulme, St. Mark's, in the parish of Manchester; St. John's, in the parish of St. John's, Clerkenwell, in the parish of Finsbury, near Dartford. The remaining two grants were for enlarging the church at Sydenham, near Thames, Oxfordshire, and for re-arranging the interior of the church at Betherden, near Tenterden, Kent. Since the last meeting, the society has received the sum of £2000, being part of the legacy bequeathed to it by the late T. C. Harrold, Esq. A legacy of £500 has been annexed to the late Mr. Harrold, Esq., Regent-square, and a sum of £100 from Mrs. Eliza, wife of Broome, Doncaster, who, it is understood, each have received from Sir R. Fitzwyljam, Bart., and the Bishop of London, the last-mentioned donation being part of the tithe of a professional income intrusted for distribution to his Lordship; and a donation of £105 from the Bishop of Durham.

PROVIDENT CLERKS' MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this association took place on Monday night, at the London Tavern. It appeared from the report, that the total number of policies granted during the last year had been 391, for the sum of £77,150, and 11 annuities. The annual premium paid on policies held at the end of 1850 was £10,000 in the Thirteen-and-a-half per cent Stock had been purchased during the past year, making the total amount of stock £30,000. The amount of claims from death for the year had been £2599. The receipts had been £14,174, and the expenditure £4402, being a balance of £9772. In the benevolent department the amount of stock was £10,828. There were permanent annuities, consisting of four aged clerks, receiving £25 a year each, and a widow, receiving £15. The number of loans granted during the year was 107, amounting to £2000. The loan was adopted, and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting separated.

METROPOLITAN CONVALESCENT INSTITUTION.—On Tuesday the eleventh annual meeting of the supporters of this useful charity, was held at the London Offices, No. 32, Sackville-street, Rear-Admiral the Hon. W. H. Percy in the chair. The report stated that the charity had been instituted with the view of affording relief and a temporary asylum to such poor persons as were in health, who had not the means to secure their admission to the wards of an hospital, or who, upon the admission of such into institutions, were not greatly improved in health, were yet not sufficiently restored to enter upon the active duties of life. The present building at Caversham being inadequate for the accommodation of the numerous applicants for relief, the Earl of Ellesmere had presented them, in February last, with five acres of land at Weybridge, for the erection of a new building, but having had a condition annexed to the grant, which they were very anxious to fulfil, rendered the gift void under the Statute of Mortmain. The Earl, however, had given his assent to the condition, and the increase over the preceding year, £10,000 in the Thirteen-and-a-half per cent Stock had been purchased during the past year, making the total amount of stock £30,000. The amount of claims from death for the year had been £2599. The receipts had been £14,174, and the expenditure £4402, being a balance of £9772. In the benevolent department the amount of stock was £10,828. There were permanent annuities, consisting of four aged clerks, receiving £25 a year each, and a widow, receiving £15. The number of loans granted during the year was 107, amounting to £2000. The loan was adopted, and, after a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting separated.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS.—On Tuesday evening, the annual meeting of the members of the Develar-street, Dover-road, Southwark, branch of this association, was held at the Chapel, Dover-road; G. Tindal, Esq., in the chair. The secretary read the report, which stated that the receipts of the parent society, from the foreign missionaries, as well as from Ireland, were rather below those of the former year. The amount of the foreign missions, however, had increased, and exhibited a gratifying increase. The total amount of income for 1849 was £11,685 13s. 6d.; the expenditure, £10,163 10s. 7d., and the remaining debt was £10,841 13s. 2d. The meeting was addressed by several ministers and gentlemen, and amongst the rest by the Indian Chief Fah-sa-qui, who gave a graphic description of the society's proceedings at the Hudson's Bay territories. The amount of the Indian contribution, and the general statement it appeared that the society was prospering. At the conclusion of the proceedings a collection was made in behalf of the Wesleyan Mission Fund.

THE LAW OF PATENTS.—The following official orders have just been issued:—1. That the Attorney-General, with the consent and concurrence of the Solicitor-General, hereby gives notice, that, from and after the 15th day of January, 1851, every outline, description, and drawing, deposited with the Attorney or Solicitor-General, must be signed and dated by the person applying for the patent, or his agent. Every person who shall have deposited an outline, description, or drawing, shall be at liberty, at any time, to apply, in relation to the enrolment of the specification, to enclose any outline, or such outline, description, or drawing; and for this purpose, to furnish a fresh outline, description, or drawing of his invention, omitting the cancelled part. Every person who shall have entered a caveat against the granting of any patent, and shall, upon the hearing of his opposition, induce the Attorney or Solicitor-General not to make any report upon the application for the patent, shall deposit with the Attorney or Solicitor-General an outline, description, and drawing of his invention, in respect of which he opposes the granting of the said patent, such outline, description, or drawing to be approved by the Attorney or Solicitor-General. After the specification shall have been enrolled, any person shall be at liberty, on production of a certificate of the enrolment, or after two days' notice, and payment of £2, to inspect the outline, description, or drawing so deposited with the Attorney or Solicitor-General, or, aforesaid, of the invention in respect of which the specification shall have been so enroled as aforesaid, and any person shall be at liberty to obtain an copy of such outline description from the office of the Attorney or Solicitor-General, on payment of the accustomed charge.

THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS.—We are informed that most of the materials used for the new roof of the House of Commons are the same as those which composed the elegant roof first fitted up by Mr. Barry for that chamber. As we stated in a former Number, the new house will not be occupied until after the Easter recess.

LOWEST HAMPTON CLUB.—The following subjects have been selected for discussion during the year:—Feb. 8—How far Taxation enters into the Cost of Artificial Produce. Mr. S. Cheetham, of the Grove, Elsing, Southampton; March 3—On the Adulterations of Artificial Manures, and the best practical means of Detection. Mr. J. C. Nesbit, of Kensington-lane; April 7—To

what extent the Cultivation of Land in England and Scotland is affected by Soil, Climate, and other Circumstances. Mr. J. Baker, of Writtle, Essex; May 5—On the best means (legislative or otherwise) of inducing Capital to be more freely invested in Land, and the Benefits which would result therefrom to all Classes. Mr. E. Tatler, Jun., of Hyde Park Corner; June 2—On the advantages of Covered Home-Stalls, as regards the Fattening of Stock and the Manufacture of Manure. Mr. J. Bradle, of Broomfield Lodge, Chelmsford; Nov. 3—On the Injurious Effects of the present Boot-tack System in the Agricultural Districts, Mr. J. H. H. H. of Boot-tack Lodge, Chelmsford; Dec. 9—On the Landlord and Tenant Committee by the Law of Districts for Rent? Mr. W. Shaw, of the Strand. The discussion will commence at half-past four o'clock P.M. There will be no meetings for discussion in July, August, September, or October.

FRAUDULENT WEIGHTS IN THE SALE OF COALS.—On Tuesday, at the Guildhall, Mr. George Combes, coal-merchant, drawing at Messrs. Dallagh and Taylor's coal wharf, Scotland-yard, appeared before Alderman Wilson, and the Bench of Aldermen, to give evidence in a cause which had been delivered, five sacks of coal, each deficient in the weight stipulated by the Act of Parliament for an ordinary sack to contain, to Mr. Cuthbert, tallow-melter, in Paternoster-row. It appeared from the evidence, that a short time back a complaint was made to the sitting Alderman of this court that a person, advertising in the name of Captain Ray as a coal merchant, and offering to supply the Wallsend coals at £8s. per ton, had received an order for four tons from Mr. Combe, and, on the arrival of the coal, was found to be considerably short in weight. The weight, indeed, of some of them was as much as 72 lb. short, and the majority of those deficient averaged from 35 to 40 lb. short of the proper weight. After hearing a vast amount of evidence, by which it appeared that the public had been systematically swindled for a considerable time past by certain dishonest traders, Alderman Wilson convicted the defendant in the penalty of £s. for each sack named in the summons, and ordered him to pay the costs, amounting to £1 9s. in all. The money was paid into court, and the case left.

DRAMA AT FINSBURY.—On Sunday night the neighbourhood of High-street, Stoke Newington, was the scene of one of the most disastrous fires that has happened in that district for a considerable time past, which was not extinguished until a great amount of valuable property had been reduced to ruins, including three or four houses in the principal part of the street. The cause of the fire does not appear to have become known.—On the same evening, about six o'clock, a fire broke out in the extensive range of premises belonging to Mr. Cuthbert, tallow-melter, and confectioner, on Comhill. The flames commenced in the back of the shop, and, when discovered, had obtained a firm hold of the premises. Fortunately the fire commenced at an early hour, for, had it been in the night-time, it is impossible to tell what might have been the result, as not fewer than thirty men slept in the building. The flames were not extinguished until considerable damage was done to the premises, and also to their contents. Fortunately the fire was insured in the Atlas, Sun, and National Mercantile Fire-works.

LARGE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BY FIRE.—On Wednesday morning, about seven o'clock, a fire, which consumed a vast amount of property, occurred on the spacious premises belonging to Mr. Robert Whitaker, playing-card and pasteboard manufacturer, situated in Little Britain, City. The property was five floors in height, including the basement, the front forming two of the large houses in the public thoroughfare, whilst the manufacture was a building nearly as capacious. Although the front buildings were detached from the back, there were two flights of stairs, each about 40 feet, and a passage 40 feet, which provided very little service in cutting off the ravage of the flames. The total loss by this disastrous event is estimated at some thousand pounds. The whole of the manufacturing premises are completely destroyed, the upper portion of one of the front warehouses is completely burned out, the whole of the back rooms of the two front houses are partially destroyed, and the valuable stock in trade seriously injured by water. Inured in the Sun and Phoenix Fire-works, which had been in existence for upwards of twenty years, were completely damaged by fire and water, and stuck in trade by hasty removal. Immediately, in the Guardian, and contents in the Alliance, offices, No. 17 and No. 15, Little Britain, belonging to Mr. Stoc, a bootmaker, have sustained trifling injury, by hasty removal and water. No. 2, Little Montague-court, Mr. Rayner, a cabinet-maker. Premises much damaged by fire and water. Insured in the Sun Fire-office.

LOSS OF LIFE IN A SEWER.—On Friday (last week) an occurrence, the result of accident rather than of negligence, as shown by the coroner's inquest, took place in a sewer in the neighbourhood of the Lower-road, London, Islington, by which two lives were lost. The sewer forms a branch from Church-street to Cross-street, and has been carried under the New River. The depth of the sewer is twenty-four feet, and the soil through which it passes is a stiff clay. The New River is conveyed by a tunnel along the Lower-road in a parallel direction, and at a depth of twelve feet. Mr. Cox, the landlord of the King's Head Tavern, having employed a person to open a drain from his premises, numbering upwards of 40, will be thrown out of work. Mr. Whitaker was insured in the Sun and Phoenix Fire-works. Not the least idea can be formed as to the cause of the misfortune. The following premises have also been damaged:—No. 11, Little Britain.—Mr. A. S. Hill, wholesale druggist. Stock in trade, &c., seriously injured by water. Insured in the Phoenix and Globe Fire-works, which had been in existence for upwards of twenty years. Premises much damaged by fire and water, and stuck in trade by hasty removal. Immediately, in the Guardian, and contents in the Alliance, offices, No. 17 and No. 15, Little Britain, belonging to Mr. Stoc, a bootmaker, have sustained trifling injury, by hasty removal and water. No. 2, Little Montague-court.—Mr. Rayner, a cabinet-maker. Premises much damaged by fire and water. Insured in the Sun Fire-office.

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THE HOMICIDE AT THE EAST AND WEST INDIA DOCKS.—A coroner's inquest was commenced on the body of William Abbott, aged 43, who, on the previous Thursday, while at work on board the *Leviathan* ship, at the East and West India Docks, was shot through the heart by a bullet, discharged from a gun by a youth named William East, who was firing at a mark a short distance off. The evidence adduced sustained the charge, and the Jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against William East, when the Coroner issued his warrant, and committed the犯人 to the Central Criminal Court. Some of the jury, in the inquiry into the cause of death, were asked whether they had been struck by the force of the water. They have a lot widows and families. George Ellis had six children, and a wife. They have a lot widows and families. George Ellis was born in 1812, and died in 1850. The damming of the escaping waters from the river was a work of considerable difficulty. The unhappy occurrence has been followed by a strong expression of sympathy on the part of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood in behalf of the widows and large families of the deceased, for whom subscriptions are being raised.

UNUSUALLY HIGH TIDE.—At the time of high water on Tuesday afternoon, about five o'clock, the tide rose till the river overflowed the banks in several places, and covered part of the Temple-gardens to the depth of several inches.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—Births registered in the week ending Saturday, Jan. 18.—Males, 815; females, 784: total, 1599. Deaths during the same period: Males, 507; females, 528: total, 1035. The number of deaths registered in London in the ten preceding weeks of 1850, 1841-50, varied from 960 in 1843 to 1403 in 1848, and the average was 1149. If it be augmented in the ratio of previous increase of population (1.6 per cent. per annum) up to the present time, becomes 1233, compared with which the present return exhibits a great decrease; but it will be borne in mind that violent epidemics, which multiplied the deaths of the period for which the average is drawn, have also left a less population to yield a corresponding increase of deaths. The following table gives the total number of deaths, they differ in the proportions in which prevailing diseases have proved fatal. The symptomatic class of diseases numbered 173 deaths in the preceding week (ending January 11), but in the last week they rose to 196: whereas "diseases of the respiratory organs," under which were previously enumerated 275, have now declined to 202, though it will be seen that the numbers from phthisis (which is not included in the former) are now greater than before. The same table shows 129 deaths in the week ending January 11, but in the last week they rose to 160, more than half of these being infants less than three months old. Small-pox was fatal last week to 21 persons, of whom 5 were with regard to three of the children who died, and two men, aged respectively 19 and 39 years; it is mentioned that they had been previously vaccinated. A case of cholera, in a girl of 14, who had been ill two weeks, terminated fatally on the 9th. A man and two women died from intercurrent diseases.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.—At the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, the mean daily reading of the barometer was 30.05 in. The mean reading of the thermometer was 45 deg., which is 8 deg. above the average of the same week in 1849. The excess of the daily mean temperature above the average was on Sunday 11 deg., 5 min., on Monday 9 deg. 9 min., on Tuesday 7 deg., on Wednesday 8 deg., 5 min., on Thursday 6 deg. 9 min., on Friday 8 deg. 3 min., and on Saturday 4 deg. 1 min. The wind was in the south and south-west.

GRAND BALL AT THE PAVILION, BRIGHTON.

It is now several years since Queen Victoria re-inaugurated the Pavilion at Brighton as a Royal residence. Soon after this resolution became known, the dismantling of the Palace was commenced, and that with so reckless a hand, that the decorations were literally torn from the walls, and, in some instances, destroyed in the removal. In short, nothing could exceed the wasteful desolation of this Palace interior upon which Royal had indulged its luxurious taste with almost prodigal folly.

In 1849, a Bill was introduced into Parliament by her Majesty's Ministers, to enable the Crown to dispose of the Pavilion, and "apply the proceeds of the sale to the improvement of Buckingham Palace." This measure was considered prejudicial to the interests of the town of Brighton; amid a threatened opposition to the bill, it was withdrawn, and the property was agreed to be sold to the Brighton Town Commissioners for the sum of £23,000. After some opposition, the pur-

chase was agreed on. The sum of £20,000 was raised by loan from the Bank of England, at the rate of 4 per cent. on the security of the local rates, and the sum of £33,000, the purchase-money, was paid by Mr. Slight, on the part of the Commissioners of Brighton, to the Bank of England, for the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, who thereupon gave up the Pavilion to the Town. The gardens and grounds were opened to the public on Friday, June 28, 1850, the anniversary of her Majesty's coronation.

The purchase is stated (in the *Brighton Gazette*) "to be considered the cheapest ever purchased, and, with judicious management, it must ultimately bring a revenue."

The purchase completed, the first object of the Commissioners was to render the Pavilion available for public entertainments. In order to restore them as nearly to their original state as possible, they placed the decorations in the hands of Mr. Vick, whose long experience and knowledge of the Palace well fitted him for the task. He called in the assistance of his old colleague, Mr. Lambeth, who painted the panels, and executed other decorative works in these rooms, for George IV.

We shall not be expected here to detail the history of the Palace; more especially as it has been given in No. 146 of the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS*, which contains two Views of the Exterior. By aid of the *Brighton Gazette*, we are enabled to convey to the reader some idea of the interior.

The *Breakfast Room*, used by George IV., has its roof supported by two bamboo pillars, with trellis-work. It has been converted into the "Ladies' Retiring Room," and beautifully furnished: the curtains are of crimson and gold, with bamboo pillars.

The *Chinese Gallery*, 162 feet long and 17 wide, has doors of painted glass and bamboo trellis-work. The walls throughout were of a dark pink or lila (but now salmon colour), with foliage and birds painted in a subdued style of pale blue. At the north end are double staircase of iron, leading to a gallery over the three apartments: in the middle ceiling is a square light, painted with the Chinese Deity of Thunder.

The *Banqueting Room*, 62 feet long, 42 wide, and 45 high, has been generally restored, so as to differ very slightly from its original. The present panels are from the original blocks that George IV. had made, and it is the only pattern now in existence. The effect of the silver plate is very striking. The *compt d'ore* of this room is that of walls of mother-of-pearl, with hieroglyphic groups in rich enamel, varied by candleabra-like blue lapis lazuli, mounted by white glass fillets, and immense chandeliers of numerous flowers in silver glass. The ceiling has a spacious and lofty dome, nearly occupied by a magnificently painted plantain tree, from which hangs the principal lustre. The rise of the dome is handsomely scaled with whitish green and gold, and rests on four elliptical arches, with golden columns. The oblong painted windows under the dome are in the Persian style—circles in lozenges, blue, with gold centres and radiate edges, in some degree resembling the convolvulus flower. The north and south sides have recesses, with tened roofs looped up with scarlet and gold. The walls are all bordered with trellis-work of scarlet and gold, surrounded by silver paper, imitating enamel. The ground of all these compartments is imitative mother-of-pearl.

The *Green, or Anti-Drawingroom* is white and gold in broad borders. The *Saloon* is 55 feet long and 30 feet wide. This forms the grand centre of the eastern suite, and is of circular shape, with coved recesses to the north and south; and a large dome, painted with a gorgeous dragon, with silver and gold flowered wings, enwreathed by crimson and green serpents. From this descends a spiral staircase. This room is completely furnished, and has a very rich appearance.

The *Yellow Drawingroom* is 50 feet by 20, and is very similar in appearance to the first drawingroom, but somewhat richer. The draperies are of striped satin, the walls panelled in gold and white.

The *Music Room*, 62 feet long, 42 wide, and 41 high, forms the north-west corner of the Palace, and by most persons is deemed the most splendid apartment. The walls were originally covered with crimson and gold Japan paintings, representing scenes of hunting, which has been restored by Mr. Lambeth. Pillars entwined with serpents, and flying serpents and dragons, are among the ornaments of this room, and the interior of the dome is scaled green and gold. There are 9 lustres. The organ presented by her Majesty to the town stands on the north side. The draperies are of crimson and gold silk.

On Tuesday night, the suite of rooms was opened with a splendid entertainment, admission being obtained by vouchers from the Ladies' Patronesses, which were exchanged for tickets. The price for the tickets, 10s. &c. (on Tuesday, one guinea), was fixed by the Stewards, in order to open the Pavilion rooms as widely as possible, not only to the nobility and gentry, but to the professional gentlemen of the town and county, many of whom were present. The Duke of Devonshire was the President, Lord Alfred Hervey, M.P., and Captain Sir G. Broke Peckell, Bart., M.P., the Vice-Presidents of the Stewards; the remainder consisting of Earl Jermyn, Lord Alexander Gordon Lennox, M.P., Lord Adolphus Fitzherald, Colonel Shewell (St. Huzzars), W. Turner, Esq., John Hamlin Borre, Esq., Thomas Attree, Esq., Captain Knox, William Beckett, Esq., M.P. for Leeds, and C. Derby, Esq., the three latter forming a sub-committee, and Mr. Borre acting as hon. secretary.

The vestibule of grand entrance was opened at half-past 8, from which hour until 12 the company continued to arrive. In the entrance-hall was stationed the band of the 8th Royal Irish Hussars.

About ten o'clock, the rooms began to assume an animated appearance, several of the Ladies' Patronesses having arrived; and dancing began in the Music Room, where the full orchestra of Messrs. Coots and Tinney (conducted by Mr. Charles Coote) was stationed, and performed quadrilles, waltzes, polkas, and galops.

Mr. Laurent's band was stationed in the Banqueting Room, and performed some of the most fashionable waltzes and quadrilles.

The Duke and Duchess of Richmond, accompanied by Lady Augusta, Gordon Lennox and Lady Jane Peel, alighted at the Castle-square entrance between ten and eleven o'clock.

The Duke of Devonshire arrived shortly before eleven o'clock. His Grace was distinguished by wearing the Star and Order of the Garter, and the Duke of Richmond by the Waterloo medal, and its riband of thirteen stripes. The Ladies' Patronesses were each conspicuous by wearing rosettes composed of white satin and silver. The stewardes were also filled with company.

The Duke of Devonshire retired shortly before one o'clock; but before he took his leave of the Ladies' Patronesses, he informed Mr. Slight, that he thought the lighting was better than when the Palace was occupied by Royalty.

Several of the apartments south of the principal suite were converted into refreshment-rooms, which were amply supplied by Mr. Mutton. Supper tables were laid in the rooms over the long gallery.

It was not until five o'clock that the rooms became thinned, when Mr. Coote's band struck up the National Anthem, which example was followed shortly afterwards by M. Laurent's band; but it was nearly six o'clock before the whole of the company had taken their departure.

The rooms were lighted by gas, in forty-nine glass chandeliers, supplied by Messrs. Pellatt and Co., of the Falcon Glass-Works, London. Besides glass pieces, there are employed in the construction of these chandeliers 32,000 richly cut drops; the whole, with brass-work, weighing several tons. Twenty years ago, it would have required for the purchase of these chandeliers as many thousands as it now costs hundreds. The chandeliers contain 475 gas-lights, and were completed in two months. The gas-pipes and fittings are by Messrs. Packham and Son, of Brighton.

RESIGNATION OF THE NARVAEZ MINISTRY.

In our Postscript of last week we mentioned that General Narvaez had resigned his powers as Political Chief into the hands of her Spanish Majesty. Into the details of the matter, however, we were unable to enter. Although the event burst upon the public mind somewhat suddenly, it was not altogether unexpected. General Narvaez had before tendered his resignation, which had been refused. On Thursday, the 10th, however, through Senors Sartorius and Molins, he renewed his solicitations, pleading his earnest desire to retire into private life, that he might re-establish his notoriously bad health. Her Majesty was immovable, and the Minister retired. Later in the day the Ministers, in a body, proceeded to the palace; and her Majesty, after much hesitation, at nine o'clock in the evening, consented to accept the resignation of her Minister. The General immediately hastened to pay his respects to the Queen. Her Majesty, it is said, was much moved, was anxious to bestow on her faithful servant fresh proofs of her confidence, and did not hesitate to express the deep regret which she felt at his retirement.

At half-past two on the following morning, Narvaez, accompanied by his side-de-camp Villate, entered a post-chaise, and set out from Madrid for France, carrying with him, it is said, 7,000,000 francs. He was escorted during the first post by two squadrons of cavalry. Vienna or



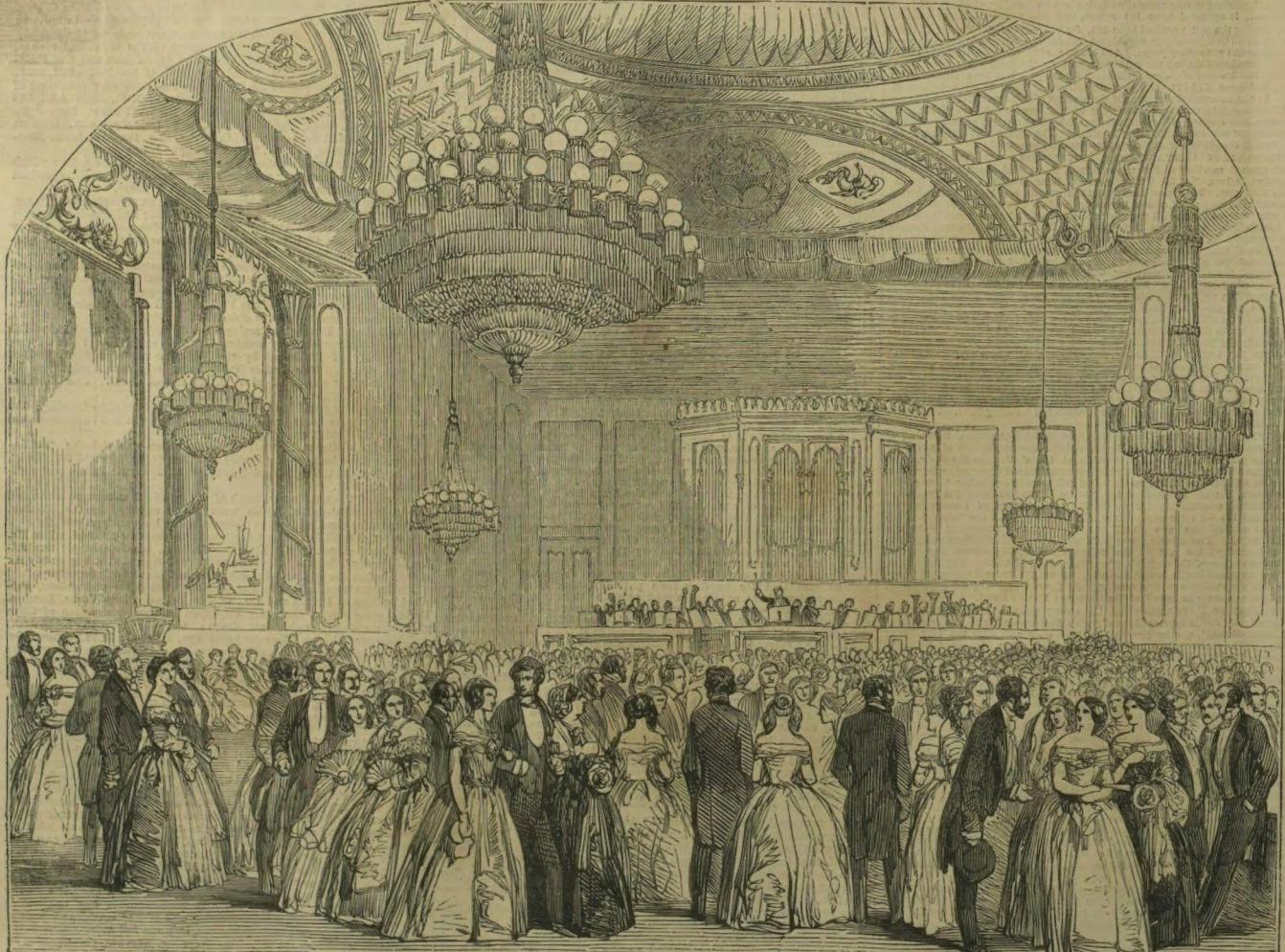
NARVAEZ LEAVING MADRID.

Berlin is believed to be his ultimate destination. The General was reported to have desired that a new Cabinet should not be formed until he had entered France.

The Liberal press of Madrid attributes the fall of Narvaez "to his peculiar system, inasmuch as, for the good of the human race, he was unable to

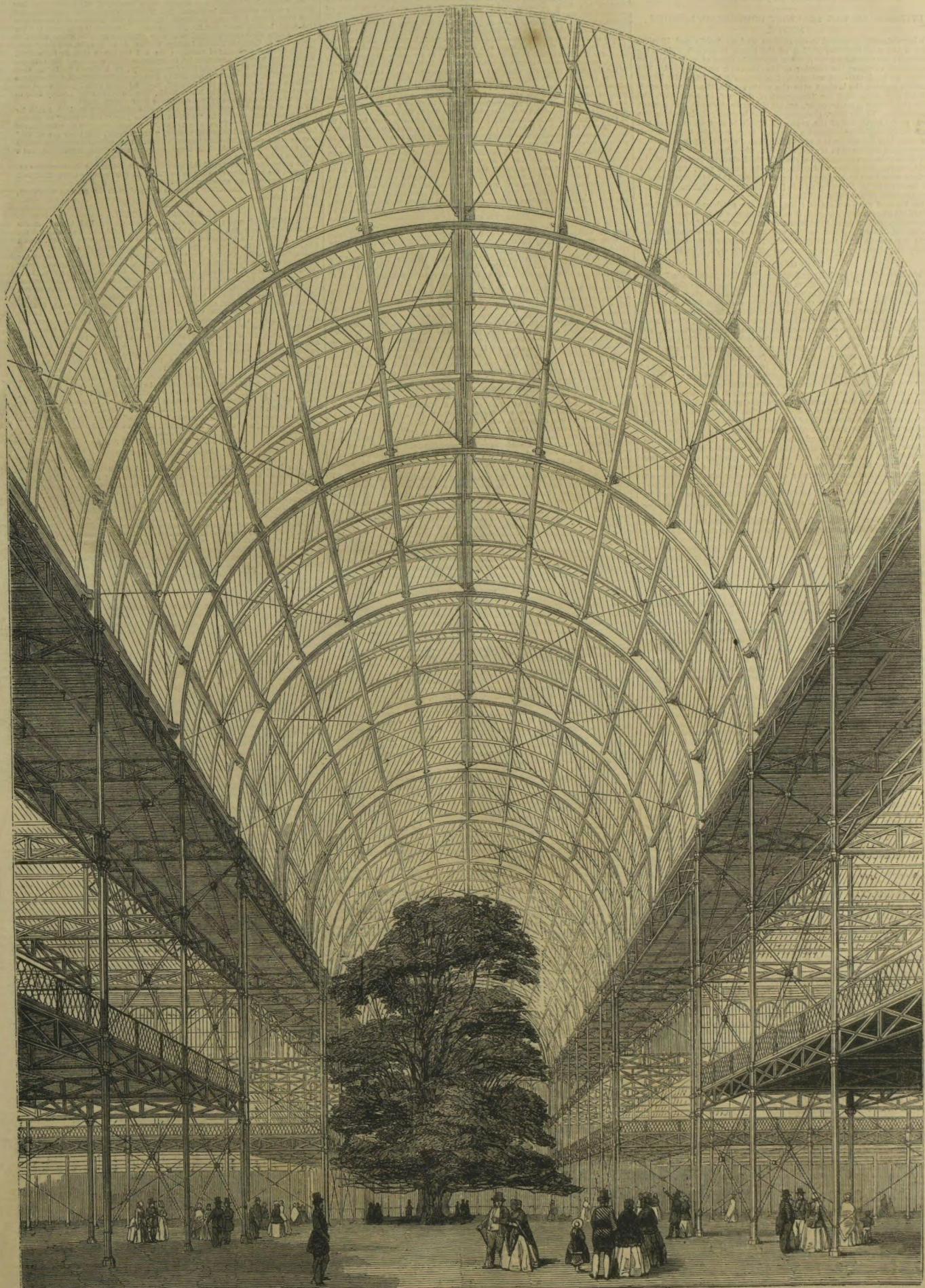
maintain those in power whose creed was abolition, opposition to every important reform, and a return to doctrines and practices condemned by the intelligence of the age." *El Clamor Publico* asserts, that no system containing within itself so many germs of decay could possibly stand. The arbitrary control exercised over the elections had produced a reaction

that proved fatal to a Ministry which had excluded its political opponents from the tribune. The above-mentioned paper concludes a well-written article by recommending to the new Ministry the pursuit of a liberal policy; predicting, as the result of a contrary course, calamity to their country, and their ultimate ignominious defeat.



GRAND BALL AT THE BRIGHTON PAVILION (THE MUSIC-ROOM), ON TUESDAY EVENING.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

THE GREAT EXHIBITION BUILDING.



INTERIOR OF THE TRANSEPT, COMPLETED.

VIEW LOOKING NORTH.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



THE HIGHLAND MOTHER.—PAINTED BY F. W. TOPHAM.

and two daughters, the elder of the latter being now widow of Viscount Alford; and the eldest of the former, Charles, being the present, and third, the Marquis of Northampton.

The late Marquis died on Friday week, at Castle Ashby, the ancient family seat, in Northamptonshire. The recent death of Lord Alford, his son-in-law, had proved a severe shock to a naturally sensitive temperament, and he was advised to leave Ashridge for his own residence, before the funeral. He did so, but very shortly after his return expired.



THE LATE MARQUIS OF NORTHAMPTON.

The family of Compton is of great antiquity, and its ancestors were Lords of Compton, county of Warwick, antecedently to the Conquest. In the reign of Henry VIII., Sir William Compton took a distinguished part in the Battle of Spurs; and in the troublous times of Charles I., the then Earl of Northampton, and several of his sons, fought with the utmost gallantry under the Royal banner, the Earl himself being slain at Hopton Heath.

We select the following tribute to this lamented nobleman, from a communication to the *Times* of Wednesday last:

Although the late Marquis did not fill any very considerable space in public life, there have been few persons in our time of more varied accomplishments, of more extended knowledge, or who, by preserving a just balance between his various functions, fulfilled more thoroughly the duties of his station. His calm and dignified manners, and his peculiar simplicity and singleness of mind, made others almost as unconscious of many of his rare and peculiar excellencies as he was himself.

At Trinity College, Cambridge, Dr. Peacock, the present excellent Dean of Ely, Professor Sedgwick, the Archishop of York, Sir John Herschel, and Professor Empson, were his contemporaries, associates, and friends; and, though somewhat his Juniors, Whewell, Master of Trinity; Airy, Astronomer Royal; Leslie, Professor of Mathematics, and Professor Wilson, all cordially entered into the same friendly association. On entering the University, he was returned to Parliament for the town of Northampton. His immediate constituents were all of the highest Tory politics. The Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval, was his neighbour; but he soon was remarked for a determined independence. He repeatedly expressed his strong preference for a system of direct rather than of indirect taxation, and he even incurred the unpopularity of opposing the repeal of the Property-tax in 1816 (see the *Times* of Dec. 21, 1816). The leader of Opposition, George Ponsonby, admitted that Lord Compton had done so in a manly and dignified manner, "though at a time when the Ministers have nothing to say for themselves." Lord Compton expressed on

a subsequent day his surprise at the conduct of the Government in repealing the war tax, and at the decision that the property-tax was above all necessary to retaining the Property-tax, and he attributed this conduct, which induced in his mind the deepest disappointment, to a false seeking after popularity. Lord Compton associated himself soon after with Whi. burrow and the noble and excellent band of men who devoted themselves to the cause of Africa. The same association connected him with Sir James Mackintosh as a criminal law reformer; and by his conduct on the case of Panga, on the Alien Act, and on the constitutional questions which were presented by the Sedition Meetings Act in 1819, he manifested how far he had advanced beyond the feelings of his party at Castle-ragh, or the home policy of Lord Sidmouth. It was on one of those occasions that Lord Castlereagh charged him with "turning his back on himself."

Lord Northampton is more known to the public in other ways than as a politician. On the retirement of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex from the presidency of the Royal Society, the varied and recognised accomplishments of Lord Northampton pointed him out as the individual most worthy to succeed to the highest scientific honour. For this he was well fitted from his abilities and from his personal character, and he possessed a deep interest in matters of science, but he possessed very general knowledge, and the most active sympathy both for science and its professors. He was a sound and practical geologist. His associations with all our most eminent philosophers, his knowledge of their fellow-labourers on the Continent, his familiarity with foreign languages, and his cheerful and splendid hospitality, rendered the period of his government greatly beneficial to the Royal Society. His retirement was regretted by all, though the admirable selection made of his successor (the Earl of Shaftesbury) was a salutary one.

Some of Lord Northampton's poems have appeared in various publications, and are specimens of good taste and good feeling. Several of them are published in a very interesting volume called the "Tribute," to which many of our most distinguished writers, Wordsworth, Rogers, Moore, Scott, Alfred Tennyson, and others, were contributors. This publication was edited by Lord Northampton for the purpose of benefiting the family of the late Rev. E. Smedley, and it contributed in an inconsiderable degree towards the kind object for which it was undertaken. This is only one example among many of the active beneficence of Lord Northampton. His family was most estimable, but it was noble and discriminating; and many a deserving sufferer has reason to be thankful for the sympathy and relief received from Castle Ashby.

Let it not be said that we have given too much prominence to the life and character of a man of unusual. We could rejoice if we could flatter ourselves that exalted virtue so far popular so general, and well balanced, combining the faith of a Christian, the affection of a husband, and a power the requirements of a man of science and of literature, the public spirit of a member of the Legislature, the justice and kindness of a magistrate and of a landlord, are, indeed, so common as to be unworthy of notice. Such is not the case. We feel the more anxious to preserve this imperfect record of the late respected Marquis of Northampton, because his character was essentially English, and in combination, I may add, of those qualities qualifying any man to another, without giving, in any case, an improper or excessive pre-eminence, is not only the greatest blessing to the happy individual himself, but is the greatest blessing to his friends and his country. It is, therefore, the greatest example to his contemporaries, and to those who will succeed him.

The accompanying Portrait is from a drawing in the possession of Mr. Weld, Assistant-Secretary to the Royal Society. This drawing was taken in 1848.

FINE ARTS.

THE HIGHLAND MOTHER.—PAINTED BY F. W. TOPHAM.

This very interesting scene of domestic life in the Highlands, is one of Mr. Topham's happiest contributions to the Exhibition of Modern British Art, at the Gallery of the Old Society of Painters in Water Colours, now open in Pall Mall East.

The composition of the Picture is extremely skilful; the details are few and simple, but cleverly arranged into a harmonious group. The expression of tenderness and affection in the mother, caressing her infant, though surrounded by the rudest approaches to comfort, as in the roughly-constructed cradle, and the fire upon the broken floor, forms an episode of touching nature. The colouring, as of all the artist's productions, is deep-toned, rich, and mellow. It is, altogether, a very admirable picture.



ASHRIDGE, THE SEAT OF THE LATE VISCOUNT ALFORD.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



DIORAMA OF "OUR NATIVE LAND."—THE "SIR ROGER DE COVERLEY" DANCE.

"OUR NATIVE LAND."

Under the title of "Our Native Land: or, England and the Seasons," a diorama is now being exhibited at the Gallery of Illustration, in Regent-street; consisting of a series of rural landscapes, with human and animal accessories. The former are by Messrs. Grieve and Talbin; the latter by Mr. Absolon and Mr. Herring. The landscapes are exceedingly fine, but are, perhaps, somewhat ideal for a general public. There seemed to be an expectation among the company that they should see actual places with recognised names; but neither in the lecture delivered by Mr. Frederick Vining, who is engaged for the occasion, nor in Mr. Miller's descriptive catalogue, was or is there any attempt to identify the pictures with actual scenes. This absence of topographical reference will, we fear, detract from the interest with which this diorama will be witnessed. In a higher point of view, however, this peculiarity may be considered an excellence. The projectors have evidently preferred the abstract and the general to the real, and thus endeavoured to elevate the notions of the

picturesque in the minds of spectators. In furtherance of this ideal the subject has been divided in allusion to poetical exemplars, and that of Thomson's "Seasons" has been adopted; to which we may add Bloomfield's "Farmer's Boy," and occasional hints from other poetical and poet-painters. Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter accordingly display in succession their various phenomena, and Mr. Vining recites the poetical passages referrible to the situation while it moves onward. Musical illustrations also accompany the exhibition—such as Beethoven's "Pastoral Symphony," and other similar compositions. These, we think, should occasionally be interrupted, especially when the recitation is proceeding. It is impossible to listen to Mr. Vining and the pianoforte at the same time. The loquacity of the artist proposed in this diorama, together with the appeal it makes to our national feelings by it, will, we fear, render it less popular with more than ordinary enthusiasm. Some of the scenes are exceedingly fine and true; but others approach us in rather a fanciful guise, and the more particularly as the costumes are obsolete. We are afraid that the peasants are Mr. Absolon's peasants, rather than the rude natives of the English soil. The pictures are, in a word, too pretty; though not uniformly painted

with the same care. One was set in the manner of a theatrical scene, representing a princely mansion by moonlight, with "real-water" fountains, and elm avenues, and aristocratic groups. This is followed by Sunday in the country—so touching topic, with the old church, and the grave-stones, and the congregation. As a contrast to these, we may mention a winter picture of Thomson's peasant perished in the snow, with his wife and his child, and his dame looking out upon the dreary scene, expecting her husband in vain. But we are not permitted to review with such gloomy impressions the concluding picture, which is with a merry party in an old-fashioned manor-house, dancing "Roger de Coverley"—a copy of which accompanies our remarks. It is to be hoped that the artistic merits of this Diorama may prove attractive, and that the laudable attempts made to elevate the taste of the public may not meet with discouragement because of their ambition.

SHIPWRECK NEAR THE LAND'S END.

EARLY ON Saturday morning, the 11th inst., the brig *New Commercial*, of Whitby



WRECK OF THE "NEW COMMERCIAL" BRIG, ON THE BRISBON ROCKS, ON THE COAST OF CORNWALL.—THE RESCUE.



CLUMBER, THE SEAT OF THE LATE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

(Continued from page 62).

bearers, on horseback; the late Duke's chariot, containing the coronet, borne by the house steward; the stud-groom, undertakers, and the clerk of the works, on horseback; the hearse (with escutcheon), drawn by six horses, and containing the coffin; a mourning coach, containing the Earl of Lincoln (now Duke of Newcastle), and the Lords Charles, Thomas, and Robert Pelham Clinton, sons of the late Duke. Among the other mourners in attendance were Viscount Combermere; the Lord Clinton, now Earl of Lincoln; and the Lords Edward and Arthur Pel-

ham Clinton, grandsons of the late Duke; H. Fyne Clinton, Esq.; E. W. Mundy, Esq.; and Col. Dawkins. The procession was closed by the head-keepers and foresters on horseback, and tenants in carriages.

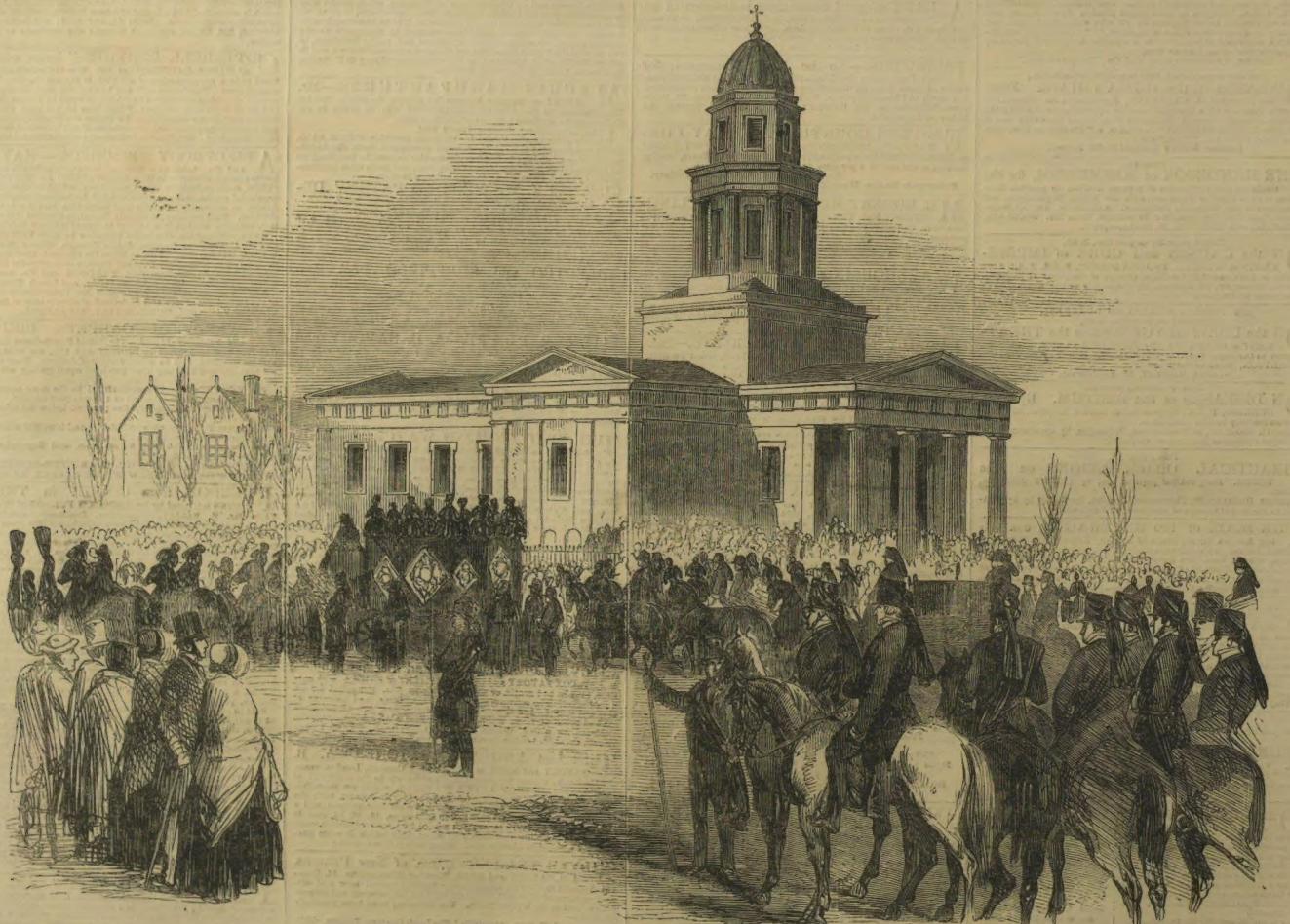
At Markham-Clinton, the *cortege* was met at the church gate by the Rev. E. H. Dawkins, who read the funeral service in a most impressive manner.

All the Ladies Clinton were present at the Interment in the church, whither they had proceeded privately.

As soon as the coffin had been placed upon the platform appointed to receive it, the pall was removed by the undertaker, when the coronet was set upon it, and the mourners then withdrew.

The pall-bearers were selected from the principal class of the late Duke's tenants, some of whom and their families had held farms for upwards of 300 years. The under-bearers were selected from the class of cottage-farming tenants, some of whom and their families had held upwards of 250 years.

The body was first placed in a shell of Spanish mahogany, lined with rich white satin; next within a lead coffin; and enclosed in the outer coffin of Spanish mahogany, covered with crimson Genoa velvet, having eight massive handles, with a coronet over each; the lid studded with gilt stars, and having upon it the breast-plate, with the noble Duke's arms heading, the inscription.



FUNERAL OF THE LATE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, AT MARKHAM-CLINTON.